DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF FISH OF THE GENUS EVOXYMETOPON, POEY.

By

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With One Figure. Plate VII.

At 4 a.m. on the morning of February 5, 1916, Mr. W. J. McLaughlan who was on sentry duty on the beach at North Fremantle, noticed in the dim light an object which he at first took to be a snake, but which on closer examination proved to be a remarkably elongated fish of a bright silvery colour. Mr. F. H. Peek who passed by a little later, offered to preserve the specimen on ice until it could be forwarded to the W.A. Museum in Perth, at which institution it was duly received on February 7th. It proves to be an example of the genus Evoxymetopon, Poey, which was founded in 1863, for a fish obtained at Havana now in the United States National Museum. The only other specimen referred to the genus was obtained at a depth of 70 fathoms off Mauritius about the year 1887. Hence the discovery of a third specimen is an event of considerable interest. The literature dealing with this genus of fish is as follows:—

Gill in the Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1863, p. 228, described the original specimen obtained by Poey at Havana, adopting Poey's name of Evoxymetopon taeniatus for the genus and species. The specimen was figured in the An. Soc. Espan. Hist. Nat., 1873, Plate V.

Gunther in the Sci. Res. of the Voy. of H.M.S. Challenger. Zool. XXII., p. 39, described the example from Mauritius as Evoxymetopon poeyi, and figured it on Plate XLIII.

Goode and Bean in Oceanic Ichthyology, Washington, 1895, give a description of Evoxymetopon taeniatus, apparently founded on a re-examination of the type. They also give a very poor figure (Fig. 214).

I have not traced any later references.

To the present example I propose to give the name of *Evoxymetopon anzac*, sp. nov.

Fig. 1

Head of Evoxymetopon anzac ($\frac{2}{3}$ nat. size.)

Photo by G. Pitt Morison.

It differs from both *E. taeniatus* and *E. poeyi* in its much greater relative length and in the larger number of rays in the dorsal fin. The chief differences are shown in the following table:—

	Evoxymetopon taeniatus, Poey. (Goode and Bean).	*Evoxymetopon poeyi*, Günther.	*Evoxymetopon anzac*, sp. nov.
GREATEST HEIGHT : Total length ...	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{1}{28}$
LENGTH OF HEAD : Total length ...	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{12}$
DIAMETER OF ORBIT : Length of head ...	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{8}$
Spines of dorsal ...	87	93	c 120
Spines of anal ...	19	x + 20	14+

Unfortunately the fins are a good deal broken, and it is impossible to count the rays of either the dorsal or anal with accuracy, no doubt these breakages occurred when it was washed ashore, and if the large spine at the commencement of the dorsal found in *E. poeyi* was ever present it has disappeared. In other respects the example agrees in its structural features with Günther's description, the postanal spine is exposed evidently owing to the abrasion of the skin in that region and just behind it there is a large oval scale similar to that described and figured by Günther. There is no trace of the six narrow reddish bands which Poey describes in *E. taeniatus* and if one may judge from Goode and Bean's figure, the ridge on the forehead is not nearly so high as in that speeies, but agrees with that of *E. poeyi*

The radial formula is: B7 Deirca 120, A14+, C17, P12, and the dimensions of the specimen are: Total length 1415 mm., length of head 120 mm., greatest height, 50 mm., diameter of orbit 15 mm. It is thus intermediate in size between the Havana specimen whieh is only 100 mm. long and the Mauritius specimen which is 78in. in length.

The speeific name of Anzac was suggestd by Mr. Peek as being speeially suitable for a fish found in Australian waters and nearly related to the famous Frost-fish (*Lepidopus caudatus*) so well-known in New Zealand.